OVERVIEW

IOM Pakistan collects data on the outflows of Afghan migrants at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points to better understand the migration movements of Afghan migrants returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Between 16 and 31 August 2023, 3,872 Afghan nationals spontaneously returned to Afghanistan, including 1,340 through the Torkham border point and 2,532 through the Chaman border point. Border authorities facilitated the return of 239 individuals due to the lack of legal documentation to remain in Pakistan. Information about these individuals is not included in the count. Although IOM identified 60,036 Afghan returnees (between 1 January - 31 August 2023) at two border crossings, this may not reflect the total number of Afghan returnees.

Moreover, for this study, only the head of household or representative of the family were interviewed. This means that the number of interviews conducted by the enumerators is lower than the number of returnees recorded by IOM. Between 16 and 31 August 2023, IOM interviewed 220 respondents.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross-border mobility between Pakistan and Afghanistan is characterized predominantly by populations speaking Pashto and Baloch languages who reside on both sides of the border.
- The worsening economic conditions in Pakistan is leading to higher levels of unemployment, rents and lower income levels. These, in turn, are increasingly compelling Afghans to return to Afghanistan where they believe they can access higher levels of humanitarian assistance.
- The top three challenges Afghan returnees anticipate facing in Afghanistan include: (i) finding income-generating opportunities, (ii) adapting to life in areas of return, and (iii) securing livelihoods.
- Throughout the reporting period, approximately six percent of returnees were classified as vulnerable individuals.[1]
- The primary occupations reported by returnees are: unskilled labour (67%), skilled labour (25%), and involvement in various businesses (8%).
- The average cost of travel from Pakistan to Afghanistan, as reported, stood at PKR 56,477 (equivalent to USD 184 as of September 6, 2023) per family.

60,036 UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES AT TORKHAM AND CHAMAN (BETWEEN 1 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST 2023)

## DISTRIBUTION OF RETURNEES BETWEEN 16 TO 31 AUGUST
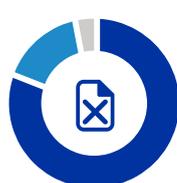
Undocumented family	81%
Family/Individual holding Afghan Citizen Card (ACC)	16%
Undocumented individual travelling with documented family	3%

AGE AND GENDER

FEMALE 49%   MALE 51%

	FEMALE	MALE
60+ years	67 (2%)	90 (2%)
18-59 years	824 (21%)	718 (19%)
5-17 years	688 (18%)	772 (20%)
0-4 years	337 (8%)	376 (10%)
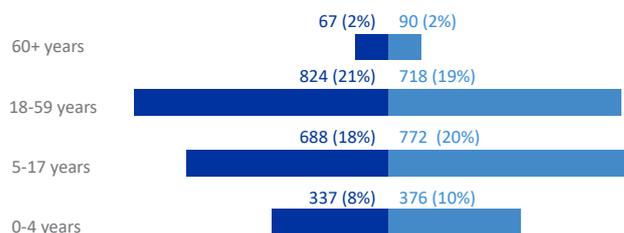
PUSH FACTORS

Unable to pay house rent	35%
Unable to pay utilities	34%
No employment	19%
Fear of arrest or deportation	8%
Business reason	4%

PULL FACTORS

Availability of assistance	52%
Family reunion	42%
Improvement in security situation	6%

RETURN TREND

Chaman — Torkham

MONTHLY TRENDS

Month	Chaman	Torkham
Apr 2022	2,417	522
May	7,849	586
Jun	5,523	1,031
Jul	3,118	947
Aug	3,883	1,341
Sep	4,798	719
Oct	5,437	968
Nov	3,787	1,436
Dec	2,900	1,275
Jan 2023	1,353	1,677
Feb	3,170	2,400
Mar	5,471	5,931
Apr	1,379	330
May	8115	3285
Jun	3,931	7,782
Jul	3,701	4,257
Aug	4,681	2,573
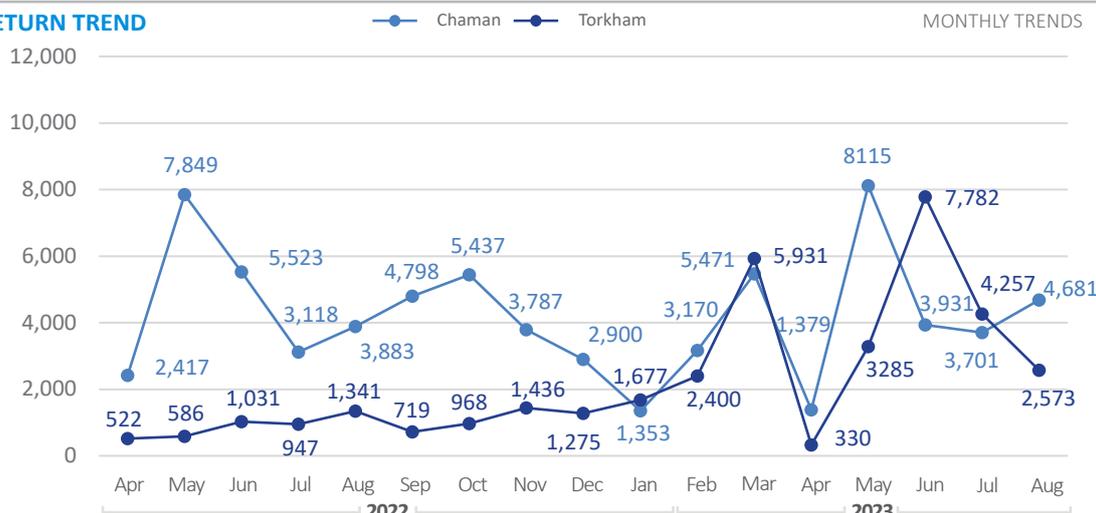
WEEKLY TRENDS (LAST FOUR WEEKS)

Week	Chaman	Torkham
01 - 07 Aug	1,135	599
08 - 15 Aug	1,014	634
16 - 22 Aug	1,267	638
23 - 31 Aug	1,265	702
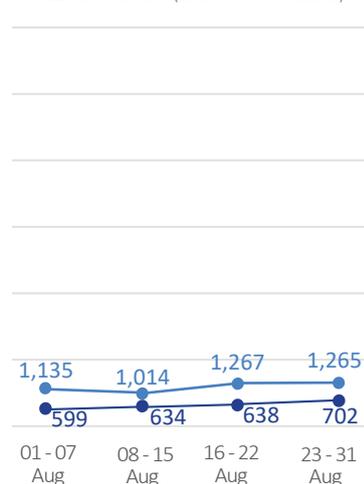
[1] Vulnerable persons include: persons with physical disability, those who need medical attention, pregnant women, elderly persons, unaccompanied minors, drug addicts, mentally ill persons and widowed persons.

SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND

● Rented house   ○ Spontaneous settlement   ● Own house   ● Camp   ○ Living with relatives

DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN OF RETURNEES

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Jammu & Kashmir

PUNJAB

ISLAMABAD

BALOCHISTAN

SINDH

LEGEND

———	International border
———	Sea border
– – –	Disputed border
•••••	Line of control
———	Province border
———	District border
▬	Origin district of returnees
▭	District without returnees
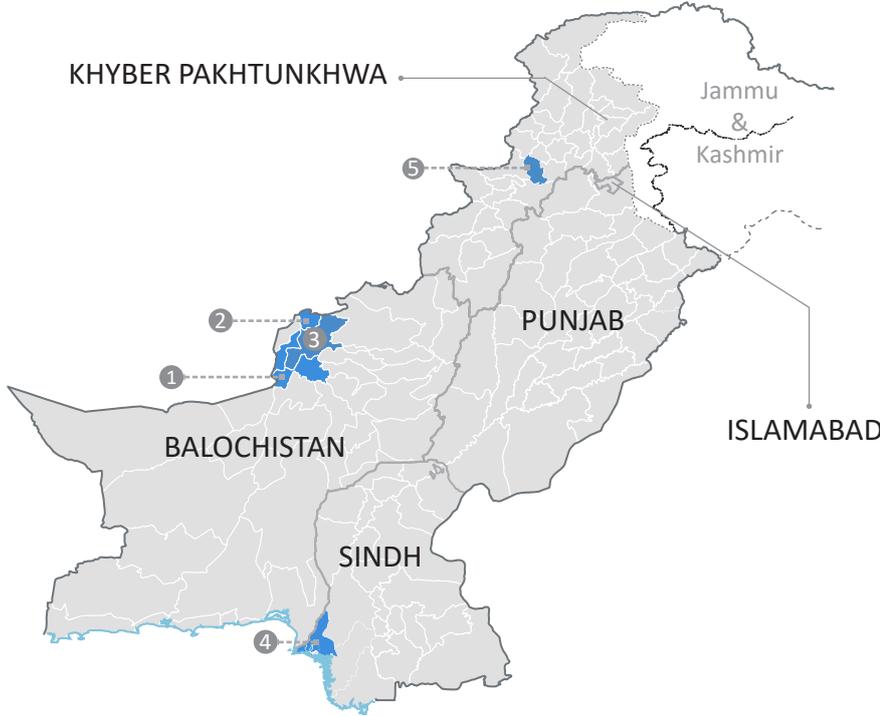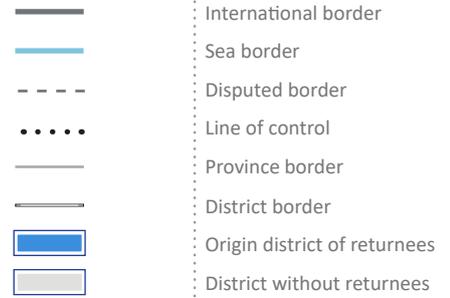
ORIGIN DISTRICT		SETTLEMENT TYPE			
1. Quetta	35%	100%	○	●	○
2. Killa Abdullah	24%	92%	○	8%	○
3. Pishin	10%	70%	○	30%	○
4. Karachi Central	6%	100%	○	●	○
5. Peshawar	5%	90%	○	10%	○
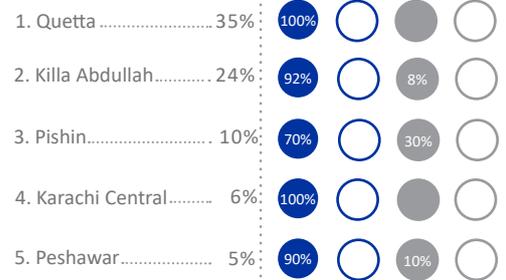
Note:
This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 districts of origin in Pakistan during the reporting period from 16 - 31 August 2023
Disclaimer:
Dotted line represents approximately the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM or United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

PROVINCES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

LEGEND

———	International border
———	Province border
▬	Province of intended destination
▭	Other provinces
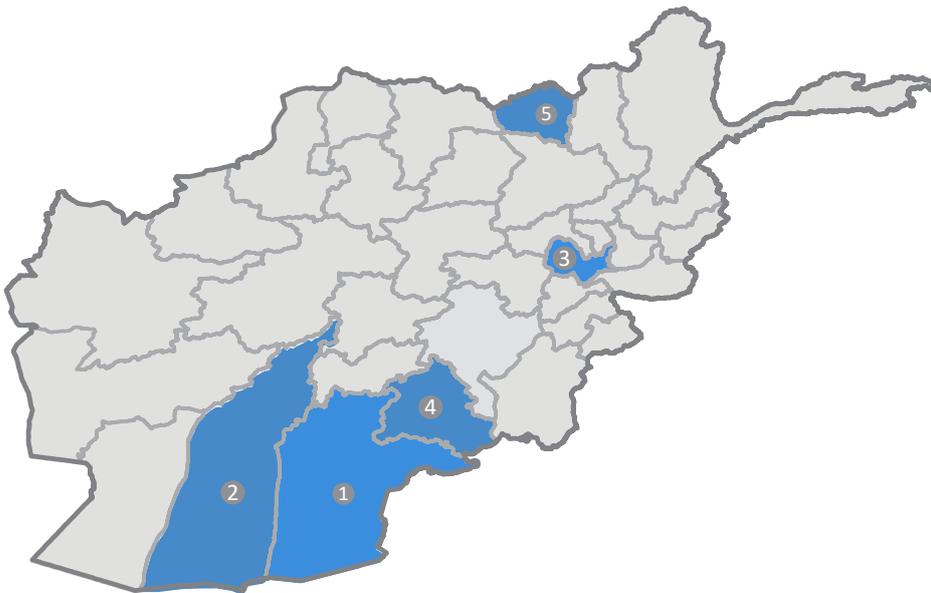
INTENDED PROVINCE		SETTLEMENT TYPE			
1. Kandahar	56%	82%	11%	○	7%
2. Helmand	8%	72%	11%	○	17%
3. Kabul	7%	56%	●	25%	19%
4. Zabul	5%	55%	36%	○	9%
5. Kunduz	4%	56%	33%	○	11%
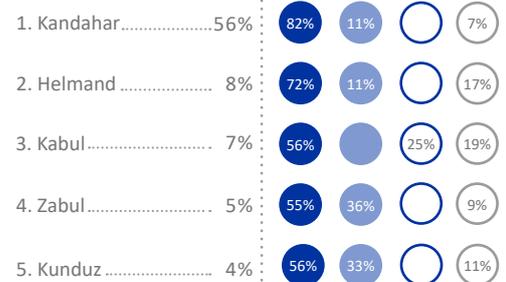
Note:
This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 provinces of intended destination in Afghanistan during the reporting period from 16 - 31 August 2023
Disclaimer:
The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.